Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /013 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9336

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 1452

USIA FOR IEU/ARNOLD, IBS/VALLIMARESCU; BUDAPEST FOR P&C; STATE FOR EUR/EE, ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: VOA HUNGARIAN SERVICE TAKACS TRAVEL

REF: BUDAPEST 0314

- 1. IN JANUARY 27 CONVERSATION WITH ASST DIRECTOR SHIRLEY HUNGARIAN DEPFONMIN NAGY ASSURED US THAT VISA REQUESTS FROM VOA CORRESPONDENTS OTHER THAN THOSE ATTACHED TO HUNGARIAN SERVICE WOULD RECEIVE PROMPT AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. APPLICATION FROM HUNGARIAN SERVICE CORRESPONDENTS, NAGY SAID, CONSTITUTED "SPECIAL PROBLEM" WHICH COULD, HOWEVER, BE RESOLVED "IN TIME."
- 2. SHIRLEY RESPONDED THAT THIS PRACTICE WHICH WE REGARDED AS DISCRIMINATORY OBVIOUSLY POSED PROBLEM WHICH WE WISHED TO SEE RESOLVED. SHIRLEY PROPOSED THAT ON NEXT OCCASION WHEN VOA WISHED TO SEND HUNGARIAN SERVICE CORRESPONDENT TO COVER EVENT IN WHICH THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL US INTEREST/INVOLVEMENT WE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AS WELL AS WITH HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. SHIRLEY TOLD NAGY THAT SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD PRECEDE SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR VISA TO GIVE HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES SUFFICIENT TIME CAREFULLY TO CONSIDER DECISION WHICH WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE OF CONSIDCONFIDENTIAL

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ERABLE INTEREST TO US SIDE. NAGY REPLIED THAT THIS PRO-

CEDURE WAS ACCEPTABLE BUT MADE NO REPEAT NO COMMITTMENTS.

- 3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE RECOMMEND THAT TAKACS APPLICATION BE WITHDRAWN. AT DATE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CONSULTATION WITH AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST WE WOULD THEN RESUBMIT APPLICATION AFTER APPROPRIATE EXCHANGES WITH HUNGARIANS. STRONGLY FEEL THAT THIS IS BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW TO OBTAIN REVERSAL OF PRESENT HUNGARIAN POLICY WHICH CLEARLY REFLECTS DECISION AT POLITICAL LEVEL. IN VIEW OF ATTITUDE REFLECTED BY NAGY BELIEVE THAT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH APPLICATION AT PRESENT TIME WOULD RESULT IN: (A) REJECTION OF VISA REQUEST; AND (B) FURTHER DELAY IN RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM WHICH HAS NOW BEEN WITH US FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
- 4. ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE AND REPEAT TO BUDAPEST. STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW01452

Document Number: 1976MOSCOW01452 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760038-0707

From: MOSCOW

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760291/aaaadcph.tel Line Count: 78

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 BUDAPEST 314 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 29 APR 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by MartinML>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: VOA HUNGARIAN SERVICE TAKACS TRAVEL

TAGS: SCUL, CVIS, US, HU, VOA, (TAKACS)

To: USIA

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006